(c) and (d) The Ministry of Textiles does not provide financial assistance to the private and co-operative sector mills. The financial assistance given to the Public Sector mills (NTC) during the last five years are as follows:

Year	Rupees in Lakh
1994-95	150.59
1995-96	183.30
1996-97	246.10
1997-98	555.88
1998-99	173.02

Reduction in export Price by Coir Board

1514. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have given any instructions to the Coir Board to reduce the rate of existing minimum export price of 1997 to the rate of 1995; and

(b) If so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN):

(a) and (b) The MEP was last revised in 1995. The Central Government had not agreed to any further upward revision because a study was being conducted by the Coir Board for reviewing the matter. It was decided to take a decision in this regard on receipt of the study report.

Corpus fund for jute Industry

1515. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Jute Industries has agrued the Centre to create corpus fund out of the production cess collected from the industry, for modernization product development and market promotion; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN):

(a) The Indian Jute Mills Association had proposed the creation of corpus fund for jute industry in its presentaion to the Expert Committee on Textile Policy.

(b) The proposal of the Indian Jute Mills Association has been considered by the Expert group. The recommendations of the Expert Group are under consideration.

Relief *to* Textile Exporters

1516. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that small countries like Bangladesh, Sri Lanka are superseding India in Textile exports and have taken away Indian textile export business;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware of these developments; and

(c) whether Government propose to offer some relief measures to textile exporters so that the country regains lost textile exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Both these countries have a rapid growth in exports, especially in garments. In order to encourage the export of Indian textiles, Government have been taking a number of steps, which include encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets, fairs and exhibitions, enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production, special arrangements for duty free import of raw materials for export production, technological upgradation of the textile industry, favourable export oriented changes in Quota Policy, etc.